



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**This is an official
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) ALERT**

MESSAGE ID: MSHAN-20150405-00110-ADV (Health Advisory)
RECIPIENTS: All Physicians, ER, Hospitals, and Healthcare Providers - Statewide
DATE: April 5, 2015

SUBJECT: *Adverse Reactions to Synthetic Cannabinoids (“Spice”) in Mississippi*

Dear Colleagues:

The Mississippi State Department of Health has been made aware of numerous adverse events from the use of synthetic cannabinoids or “Spice” within the past 72 hours. Since Thursday, April 2, 2015, the Mississippi Regional Poison Control Center has tracked approximately 28 individuals with serious adverse effects suspected to be associated with the street drug commonly referred to as “Spice”. All patients thus far have been residents of the Jackson Metropolitan area. Patients have presented with agitation, sweating, hyperactivity, hallucinations, acute psychosis, or coma requiring emergency department care, many with prolonged symptoms and complications of rhabdomyolysis requiring hospitalization. While most have recovered completely there is one suspected death.

Categorized synthetic cannabinoids are illegal analogs of naturally occurring cannabinoids found in marijuana, and are typically sold in formulations labeled “not for human consumption.” Locally referred to as “Spice”, “Scooby Snax”, “Mojo”, “Toxin”, “Anthrax” among others, the current drug clearly is a health danger and should be avoided. Testing for synthetic cannabinoids is not readily available and urine drug screens will not typically detect these drugs.

Poisoning events should be suspected among patients presenting with unexplained psychosis, agitation, hyperactivity, hallucinations or rhabdomyolysis, particularly in the setting of recent illicit drug use. We request healthcare providers and emergency personnel to report suspected cases to the MS Regional Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222.

Sincerely,

Thomas Dobbs, MD, MPH
State Epidemiologist
Mississippi State Department of Health

Alerting Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency:	Mississippi State Department of
Health Alerting Program:	MS Health Alert Network (MS
HAN) Message Identifier:	MSHAN-20150405-00110- ADV
Program (HAN) Type:	Health Advisory
Status (Type):	Actual ()
Message Type:	Alert
Reference:	MSHAN-00110
Severity:	Unknown
Acknowledgement:	No
Sensitive:	Not Sensitive
Message Expiration:	Undetermined
Urgency:	Undetermined
Delivery Time:	600 minutes

Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency:	A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.
Alerting Program:	The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.
Message Identifier:	A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (ALT=Health Alert , ADV=Health Advisory , UPD=Health Update , MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service)).
Program (HAN) Type:	Categories of Health Alert Messages.
Health Alert:	Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
Health Advisory:	Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
Health Update:	Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.
Health Info Service:	Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.
Status (Type):	
Actual:	Communication or alert refers to a live event
Exercise:	Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
Test:	Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded
Message Type:	
Alert:	Indicates an original Alert
Update:	Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
Cancel:	Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
Error:	Indicates prior alert has been retracted

Reference: For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

Severity:

Extreme:	Extraordinary threat to life or property
Severe:	Significant threat to life or property
Moderate:	Possible threat to life or property
Minor:	Minimal threat to life or property
Unknown:	Unknown threat to life or property

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

Sensitive:

Sensitive:	Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
Not Sensitive:	Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Expiration: Undetermined.

Urgency: Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

Delivery Time: Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).